

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I'm sure you all know, the secular press has recently claimed that the Pope, in his soon-to-be-released documentary "Francesco" (Oct.25), is endorsing same sex marriages. This is false. The secular press, for quite some time now, has earned the rep of taking one-liners from the Pope and casting on them a different light than that which, when understood in the broader context of his message, he intends to say. The public has not seen the documentary, "Francesco," as it has not yet been made available to it. Until the documentary is made available, it is imprudent for one to quote the Pope's one-liners either to advance the cause of same-sex marriage (something the press is very quick to do, almost always out of context and to advance its own agenda), or to badmouth the Vicar of Christ. Based on the entirety of the Pope's pontificate and teachings, along with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's ongoing and public support of Pope Francis' teachings, until the release the documentary, it is imprudent to assume factual the secular press' latest and umpteenth claim that Pope Francis is promoting promiscuous same sex marriage unions as civil unions blessed by God. The Pope had never done this.

The Pope's words on the state (not the Church) recognizing the human dignity of all human persons, even those that have entered into civil unions¹ in order to uphold the intrinsic dignity of the human persons whom the Church recognizes as made in God's image and likeness, is quite distinct from the Pope endorsing as blessed by God same sex marriages, which the secular press has falsely stated. In point of fact, respectively in arts. 52 and 251 of Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, he states,

"We need to acknowledge the great variety of family situations that can offer a certain stability, but de facto or same-sex unions, for example, may not simply be equated with marriage. No union that is temporary or closed to the transmission of life can ensure the future of society."

"In discussing the dignity and mission of the family, the Synod Fathers observed that, 'as for proposals to place unions between homosexual persons on the same level as marriage, there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family.'"

Furthermore in his 2018 publication entitled, "The Strength of Vocation," Pope Francis unequivocally affirmed that gay clergy "is a very serious issue" that "influences the life of the church" and that "in consecrated and priestly life, there's no room for that kind of affection. Therefore, the church recommends that people with that kind of ingrained tendency should

¹ cf. footnote 278, *Amoris Laetitia, Relatio Finalis 2015*, 76; cf. also Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons* (3 June 2003), 4.

*not be accepted into the ministry or consecrated life.*² Pope Francis expanded on this in an interview in December 2018, suggesting that gay priests must commit to the same standards of celibacy as their heterosexual counterparts.³

Considering that we are experiencing in these End Times the diabolic plan to remove the papacy and end the Perpetual Sacrifice, is it any wonder that the far-left secular press and the far-right schismatic press, who openly distort and badmouth the Vicar of Christ Pope Francis, refuse to print the above unchanging teachings of the Holy Father? My dear friends, I exhort you to avoid such dishonest news outlets, and to do as Jesus tells you: remain loyal to the Vicar of Christ and to all the bishops throughout the world in union with him.

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² "Gay people should not join Catholic clergy, Pope Francis says," Agence France-Presse reported in The Guardian, 2 December 2018.

³ NRC: "Pope to gay priests: Be celibate or get out," December 2018.